

WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary
November 17, 2008

Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Rd., Riverside, WA

FINAL

Bryony Stasney (facilitator) opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees Present: Mike Carney (alternate for Burt Covert and Dean Fanara), Bill Harmon (alternate for Greg Sweeney), Kathleen Werr, Mary Sterling, Darrell Johnson, Dick Anderson (alternate for Sandra Roath, Josh Roath and Lynne Anderson), Tammy Kirk (alternate for Bev Rowley and Howard Rowley), Dan Peterson, Karen Averitt (alternate for Linda Cannon), Tom Wimpy, Mike Lithgow, Ralph Christiansen (Diamond Lake).

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves. Bryony asked everyone to sign-in to the meeting and to check and edit the information on the sign-in sheet. Bryony introduced herself as the Committee's facilitator. Bryony's contact information is: Bryony Stasney, bstasney@golder.com, 208-676-9933 (office) and 208-755-1010 (cell).

Public Comment:

- The Pend Oreille County Commission will be hosting a workshop for the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program Update on Thursday November 20 at the Kalispel Wellness Center in Usk from 6 – 8 pm. Tom Wimpy and Karen Averitt may attend and could give an update at the next meeting.
- The group agreed that they would like Barry Dutton of PBSJ to attend the next meeting to give an update on storage and wetland restoration opportunities.
- Bryony provided a CD with Sacheen Lake documents (scanned from the POCD files) to Mike Lithgow.
- Dick noted that there has been some beaver activity at Horseshoe and asked if there are funds available for trapping. Bryony noted that the CTED funds (designated for beaver mitigation) could likely be used for trapping. Tom asked that Bryony check with the CTED fund administrator to make sure that the funds can be used for trapping. Bryony asked that Dick obtain a quote from the trapper for discussion by the Committee at the December meeting. Dick confirmed that the beaver dams at Horseshoe Lake do not appear to have an impact on flows / lake levels.
- Mary and Bill asked if the CTED funds would cover fencing to protect trees. Bryony said that she would check with the CTED fund administrator.
- Darrell noted that the beaver tubes in dam nos. 2 and 3 below Sacheen Lake were cleaned out last weekend. About 10 to 12 inches of water had backed up behind the dams prior to the tubes and racks being cleaned out.

Membership:

- Not discussed.

October 27, 2008 Meeting Summary Review

The following corrections were discussed and agreed to by the Committee: 1) page 1, under public comment, edit the first bullet to read, "8 beaver lodges (4 active with maybe up to 20 beavers **in total**) ..."; 2) page 3, edit the second bullet to read, "Harter" (and not Harder); and, 3) in the second paragraph on page 4, change "Brain" to "Brian". The final October 2008 meeting summary will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

Roles / Responsibilities for WB LSR Committee in 2009

The Committee listed the following roles / responsibilities to take on in the future:

- **Coordination with other groups** such as the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Advisory Group. This will involve WB LSR Committee members attending the WRIA 55/57 WIT and TMDL meetings and communicating consensus decisions and requests for funding / partnerships for implementation projects.
- **Funds and grant administration.** Currently, the WB LSR Committee is not able to receive grants but can work with a governmental lead entity such as the Pend Oreille Conservation District, Pend Oreille County or Spokane County to apply for / receive grants on behalf of the WB LSR Committee. For the 2008 beaver mitigation funding that is being directed through the Pend Oreille Conservation District via CTED, there are no funds for the Pend Oreille Conservation District to administer the grant. The Committee members agreed to consider assisting the Pend Oreille Conservation District with grant administration. Bryony noted that grant administration could also be included as a scope item for contractors as a component of projects that are funded using these monies.
- **Track implementation of action plan.** Every year, the Committee will need to update the action table and develop an annual action plan.
- **Project Oversight.** The Committee will need to take on the oversight role for individual projects (e.g., scope development and approval, tracking).
- **Forum for Communication.** The Committee meetings will provide a forum for communication between members.
- **Seek funding / grant writing.** To implement actions detailed in the action plan.
- **Meeting organization, record keeping and website.** The Committee will need to organize meetings (reserve room, set and send out agendas), develop summaries of meetings and email information (e.g., meeting summaries and presentations) to Reanette Boese at Spokane County (RBoese@spokanecounty.org) for posting on the WB LSR website. The website (<http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>) is currently hosted by Spokane County.
- **Achieve mission.**
- **Develop Operating Structure.** *See below.*

Structure for WB LSR Committee in 2009

Those present agreed to try out the following structure for operation of the WB LSR Committee starting in January 2008.

- Use / modify existing operating procedures in January 2009.
- Meeting facilitation will be conducted initially by Committee members. Outside facilitators may be considered, especially if the Committee reaches an impasse.
- Executive Committee of three.
- Sub-Committees
 - Grant writing / seeking funds
 - Grant administration
 - Project specific
 - Education and outreach
 - Implementation tracking
- The Committee agreed that it is very important that the Pend Oreille Conservation District be involved as the lead entity and a member of the Committee.
- The Committee agreed to consider developing into a non-profit organization.

Table of Contents for Action Plan

The Committee discussed and agreed to the following outline for the West Branch Little Spokane River Action Plan:

- Introduction
- Committee Structure
- Implementation Actions
 - Table
- Implementation Strategy
 - Priorities
 - Checklist
 - Coordination
 - Funding
- Appendices
 - Operating Procedures
 - Mission

Draft Watershed Action Plan

Bryony made sure that everyone had a copy of the WBLSR action table dated 110308. The Committee discussed the following changes for incorporation into the plan:

- Page 1, WB.SW1: Committee agreed to the rewording of issue and objective.
- Page 1, WB.SW1-1: Committee agreed to the action as written.
- Page 1, WB.SW1-3: Action code changed from ED2-1 to SW1-3.
- Page 2, WB.SW2-5: Committee agreed to keep the action as written.
- Page 3, WB.SW3: Committee agreed to slight rewording of issue and addition of an objective.

- Page 4, WB.SW4-1/2: Committee requested that Bryony send an email to Spokane County asking if these actions can be considered as a component of the ongoing project to assess water storage options in WRIA 55.
- Page 4, WB.SW4-3: Eloika Lake Committee members present requested that the timeframe be changed from short to long and the priority from high to low.
- Page 5, WB.WQ1: Committee agreed to edit the issue to read, "Invasive and nuisance aquatic species (for example Eurasian Watermilfoil) are an issue at all West Branch Little Spokane River lakes except Trout Lake." Committee agreed to edit the objective to read, "Control the proliferation and spread of invasive and nuisance aquatic species (for example Eurasian Watermilfoil)."
- Page 6, WB.WQ4-1: Committee confirmed that they did not want to combine this issue with the SW3-4 issue.
- Page 9, WB.WQ9: Committee agreed to identify Sacheen Lake Sewer District as the lead.
- Page 10, WB.WQ10-1/2/3: Committee agreed that the three actions are short term and high priority.
- Page 10, WB.WQ10-2: Committee confirmed the action as: "Enforce existing boating law that states that boats cannot travel greater than 5 mph within 100 feet of a natural or manmade structure" and to identify the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Dept and Spokane County Sheriff's Dept as the lead entities.
- Page 12, WB.WQ12-2: Committee agreed to reword the action to read, "Manage beaver dams, maintain beaver tubes in Dam #s 1, 2 and 3 below Sacheen Lake and consider (if needed) additional beaver tubes to allow water to flow through the dams. Beaver dams and beaver tubes should be managed / installed only per valid permit (HPA) conditions and agreements between downstream landowners and Sacheen Lake Sewer District."
- Page 12, WB.WQ12-3: Committee agreed to the action as written.
- Page 14, WB.G&LU1-3: Committee agreed to change the timeframe to ongoing / short and requested that Bryony email Spokane County to see if this action is being implemented in the West Branch Little Spokane River watershed by the WRIA 55/57 WIT.
- Page 15, WB.G&LU2: Committee agreed to add the objective: "Minimize the negative impacts of timber harvest (including road construction) on hydrology, wetlands and critical areas."
- Page 16, WB.G&LU3: Committee agreed to add the objective: "Minimize the negative impacts of development on riparian and wetland habitat throughout the watershed."
- Page 16, WB.G&LU3-4: Committee agreed to add the following information in the comments column: "If the project is large, information will be posted on Ecology's website via the SEPA process. For small projects, Pend Oreille County notifies property owners within 300 feet. Pend Oreille County Planning Dept. does plan to post proposal development information on their website starting in December 2008."
- Page 17, WB.WR1: Committee agreed to add the objective: "Eliminate illegal water use."

- Page 18, WB.H1: Committee agreed to reword the issue to: “Fish populations appear to have declined along river reaches (lakes are stocked) in the WB LSR Watershed.”
- Page 18, WB.H1: Committee agreed to add the objective: “Assess why fish populations appear to have declined along river reaches (lakes are stocked) and identify actions to prevent additional population declines and restore fish populations.”
- Page 19, WB.H2: Committee agreed to reword the issue to: “There appears to be a decrease in populations of frogs and turtles and the North American Bittern and other bird species no longer occur in the WB LSR (maybe since its food source – fish and frogs – are declining).”
- Page 19, WB.H2: Committee agreed to add the objective: “Assess why populations of frogs, turtles and birds (including the North American Bittern) appear to have declined in the WB LSR Watershed and identify actions to prevent additional population declines.”
- Page 20, WB.ED1: Committee confirmed the issue as: “There is a need to improve access to information on the water resources of the West Branch of the Little Spokane River.”
- Page 20, WB.ED1: Committee agreed to add the objective: “Compile and maintain an information repository on water resources of the West Branch of the Little Spokane River so that this information can be easily accessed by the public.”
- Page 20, WB.ED1-4: Committee confirmed the action as: “Establish and maintain a repository (web site and library) for water resources information for the WB Little Spokane River. Recommend that entities collecting water resources information in the WB Little Spokane River upload their information (including data and reports) to this web site and submit hard copy reports to the Pend Oreille CD.”
- Page 21, WB.ED2: Committee confirmed the issue as: “There is a need for communication between residents and agencies on water resources issues within the West Branch Little Spokane River watershed and a need to coordinate on implementation projects that relate to the water resources of the West Branch of the Little Spokane River watershed.”
- Page 21, WB.ED2: Committee agreed to add the objective: “Develop a forum for storage, coordination, implementation and discussion of WB Little Spokane River watershed water resources information and implementation projects.”
- Page 21, WB.ED2-1: Committee confirmed the action as: “Develop a structure for the WB LSR Committee for 2009 onwards that facilitates coordination between the WB Little Spokane River watershed lake associations and landowners along the WB Little Spokane River. This Committee would provide a clearing house and a link between the residents and agencies of the WB of the Little Spokane River watershed and other implementing / funding entities such as the WRIA 55/57 WIT, EPA, Ecology and WDFW. The Committee could be a forum for communication and reporting progress on projects and could be further developed to an organization that could apply for funding (e.g., a non-profit organization).”

- Page 21, WB.ED2-2: Committee confirmed that the action read, “Recommend that Pend Oreille County retain County water resources / natural resources staff to address water resources issues in the West Branch Little Spokane River watershed.”
- Page 21, WB.ED2-3: Committee confirmed that the action read, “Implement a watershed pledge throughout the West Branch Little Spokane River Watershed.” Committee agreed that this action is short term and high priority.

Priority Actions for Implementation

Bryony noted that the action to establish a structure for the WB LSR Committee in 2009 will be a priority. Bryony noted that there are currently too many short-term, high priority actions identified in the draft plan. Bryony asked each committee member to identify 2 short-term, high priority actions either at the meeting tonight or by the end of the day Friday November 19. These actions will be considered by the Committee as the top tier actions for implementation and will be the focus for 2009. The compilation of priorities received from Committee members is as follows:

WB.SW2-2: 4 votes	WB.SW4-1: 3 votes	WB.SW1-1: 2 votes
	WB.WQ1-1: 3 votes	WB.WQ9-2: 2 votes
	WB.WQ10-1: 3 votes	WB.SW4-2: 2 votes

WB.SW3-2: 1 vote
WB.SW3-4: 1 vote
WB.H1-2: 1 vote
WB.WQ11-1: 1 vote
WB.WQ14-1: 1 vote
WB.WQ4-1: 1 vote
WB.WQ12-4: 1 vote
WB.ED1-1: 1 vote

Public Comment:

After discussion, the Committee requested that Bryony email Spokane County to see if there is funding available through WRIA 55/57 to continue organization / facilitation for the West Branch Little Spokane River Committee.

Next Meeting (agenda, tasks and announcements):

The next Committee meeting will be at the Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Road, Riverside, WA at **6:00 – 8:30 pm on Monday December 15, 2008**. Bryony will bring coffee for the December meeting. The Committee agreed to set the dates for meetings in 2009 as the fourth Monday of the month.

Adjourn:

Bryony adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm. Digital recording file (WBLSR Committee 111708.wav) for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD.